

**SAN MATEO COUNTY**

**Site name:** Redwood Shores State Marine Park

**Year established:** 1976

**Approximate Area:** 0.36 nm<sup>2</sup>      **Approximate Shoreline length:** 13.82 nm

**Approximate Depth range (feet):** not available

**Habitat types:** Intertidal estuarine

**Surrounding habitat types:** Intertidal estuarine and marsh

**Summary of existing regulations:** Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except the recreational hook and line take of species other than marine aquatic plants. Only lightweight, hand-carried boats may be launched or operated in within the park.

**Primary objectives:** This area was originally designated as an ecological reserve. Fish and Game Code Section 1580 (ecological reserves) states that "the policy of the state is to protect threatened or endangered native plants, wildlife, or aquatic organisms or specialized habitat types, both terrestrial and nonmarine aquatic, or large heterogeneous natural gene pools for the future use of mankind through the establishment of ecological reserves." Although the language does not specifically refer to ecological reserves in marine areas, the Fish and Game Commission has extended this policy to those areas.

**Existing enforcement:** Redwood Shores is patrolled regularly by the Department of Fish and Game.

**Baseline and ongoing monitoring and research studies:** None found.

**Basic Evaluation:** Insufficient information for evaluation at this time.

**Site name:** Bair Island State Marine Park

**Year established:** 1986

**Approximate Area:** 2.33 nm<sup>2</sup>      **Approximate Shoreline length:** 18.43 nm

**Approximate Depth range (feet):** not available

**Habitat types:** Intertidal estuarine

**Surrounding habitat types:** estuarine

**Summary of existing regulations:** Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except the recreational hook and line take of species other than kelp from shore only. Boating, swimming, wading, and diving are prohibited within the Park. No person, except state and local law enforcement officers, fire suppression agencies and employees of the department in the performance of their official duties or persons possessing written permission from the department, shall enter this park during the period February 15 through May 20.

**Primary objectives:** This area was originally designated as an ecological reserve. Fish and Game Code Section 1580 (ecological reserves) states that "the policy of the state is to protect threatened or endangered native plants, wildlife, or aquatic organisms or specialized habitat types, both terrestrial and nonmarine aquatic, or large heterogeneous natural gene pools for the future use of mankind through the establishment of ecological reserves." Although the language does not specifically refer to ecological reserves in marine areas, the Fish and Game Commission has extended this policy to those areas.

**Existing enforcement:** Bair Island is patrolled regularly by the Department of Fish and Game.

**Baseline and ongoing monitoring and research studies:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages this site for the Department. A GIS map of the area was recently completed.

**Basic Evaluation:** Insufficient information for evaluation at this time.

**Site name:** James V. Fitzgerald State Marine Park

**Year established:** 1969

**Approximate Area:** 0.58 nm<sup>2</sup>      **Approximate Shoreline length:** 3.0 nm

**Approximate Depth range (feet):** 0 to 33

**Habitat types:** Rocky intertidal and subtidal Monterey shale.

**Surrounding habitat types:** Rocky reefs interspersed with sandy bottom.

**Summary of existing regulations:** Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except the recreational take by hook and line or spear of: rockfish (family Scorpaenidae), lingcod, surfperch (family Embiotocidae), monkeyface eel, rock eel, white croaker, halibut, cabezon, kelp greenling, and smelt (Families Osmeridae and Atherinidae).

**Primary objectives:** The shoreline and reef area has been of interest to biologists, preservationists, and collectors since as early as 1908. As a result of the popularity of the site, resource depletion has long been an issue. In an effort to protect the area, in the 1960's the County of San Mateo proposed that the State of California designate the area as a "state reserve". Legislation was approved for the reserve status in 1969.

**Existing enforcement:** Enforcement of this area is effective because of the combined resources available through the state, county and public. This is a high use area, despite the MPA status, because of its accessibility to the public.

**Baseline and ongoing monitoring and research studies:** Baselines are old (1975 and 1976) and major changes have occurred. Subsequent baseline study and baseline studies were published in 1993. Staff are now compiling new information and has written a Management Plan in respect of how people may use the area.

The San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Division is proposing a resource assessment project for Fitzgerald that will 1) determine the amount (if any) of resource degradation from visitation, fishing and gathering; 2) propose, relative to visitation, fishing and gathering, various actions that can best protect the terrestrial reserve and MPAs natural resources; and 3) evaluate how (if at all) these actions will affect those who visit, fish and gather at Fitzgerald. As of 2004, new studies are underway to determine historical and existing levels of recreational take of the monkeyface prickleback, an important intertidal fish.

**Basic Evaluation:** Areas within the MPA that are remote from access as well as areas that are policed often function to protect species as originally intended. However, this is a high use area in which the primary concern is user access hampering resource protection. The area has both enforcement resources and public support.

**Published references related to effectiveness of this MPA:** 17, 126